

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 IO-13 HA-05 L-03 H-01
SY-05 OPR-02 MCT-01 /092 W
-----031311 231918Z /53

R 231644Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6123
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
DIA WASH DC
COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 4654

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PINS PINT PO
SUBJ: AZOREAN SEPARATISM

REF: LISBON 4220 (DTG 160932Z JUN 78)

1. THE FOLLOWING PONTA DELGADA 369 (DTG 211331Z JUN 78)
IS REPEATED.
BEGIN QUOTE

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL CONTACTS WITH FLA LEADERS,
AMERICAN CITIZEN DR. NORMAN BAILEY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT
THE SEPARATISTS WILL STAGE AN ARMED BID FOR INDEPENDENCE IN
THE NEAR FUTURE. AMCONSUL STILL HAS NO REPEAT NO COLLATERAL
INFORMATION WHATSOEVER THAT WOULD SUBSTANTIATE BAILEY'S
SUSPICIONS. IT DOES APPEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE FLA, DEPRIVED
OF DIRECT ACCESS TO AMCONSUL, IS SEEKING TO USE BAILEY AS
AN INTERMEDIARY. END SUMMARY.

1. AMERICAN CITIZEN DR. NORMAN BAILEY CAME BY CONSULATE
JUNE 20 TO PASS ON SUBSTANCE OF HIS JUNE 7 CONVERSATION WITH
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FLA LEADER JOSE DE ALMEIDA (REFTELS). ACCORDING TO BAILEY,
ALMEIDA SEEMED SHAKEN AND DEPRESSED WHEN BAILEY INFORMED HIM
THAT HE THOUGHT ANY FLA ATTEMPT TO SEIZE INDEPENDENCE BY
FORCE WOULD BE DOOMED TO FAILURE AND, IN HIS OPINION, RUN UP
AGAINST OUTRIGHT OPPOSITION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.
BAILEY RECALLED THAT ALMEIDA HAD RESPONDED TO HIS ADVICE
BY GRIEVING OVER THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE WEST TO SUPPORT

HIS MOVEMENT. BY THE TIME THE TWO HAD GONE THEIR WAYS, BAILEY SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE FLA LEADER HAD INDEED ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO DECLARE UNILATERAL INDEPENDENCE OF THE AZORES IN THE NEAR FUTURE, BUT HAD BEEN DISSUADED FROM PRESSING AHEAD AS A RESULT OF BAILEY'S ARGUMENTS.

2. HOWEVER, BAILEY SAID HE WAS NOT SO CONFIDENT OF HIS PERSUASIVE POWERS FOLLOWING A CHANCE STREET ENCOUNTER WITH JOSE DE ALMEIDA ABOUT A WEEK LATER. AT THAT TIME HE FOUND THE FLA LEADER AS BOUYANT AND DETERMINED AS EVER. DURING THEIR BRIEF SIDEWALK CONVERSATION, ALMEIDA TOLD BAILEY THE FOLLOWING: "WE REGRET THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS DECIDED NOT TO ASSIST US IN OUR STRUGGLE. HOWEVER, WE WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE SHALL NOT BE DETERRED FROM OUR OBJECTIVE. THE EMANCIPATION OF THE AZOREAN PEOPLE WILL BE ACHIEVED. I AM NOT TALKING IN TERMS OF YEARS OR MONTHS BUT OF WEEKS." BAILEY INTERPRETED ALMEIDA'S WORDS TO MEAN THAT THE FLA LEADERSHIP HAD VOTED TO PRESS AHEAD WITH THE ATTACK, POSSIBLY OVERRULING ALMEIDA HIMSELF.

3. SUBSEQUENT TO THAT CONVERSATION, BAILEY SAID HE WAS CONTACTED BY RAINER DAEHNHARDT, ONE OF JOSE DE ALMEIDA'S PRINCIPAL LIEUTENANTS. (FYI: DAEHNHARDT, A YOUNG, RIGHT WING ANTIQUE GUN DEALER/HISTORIAN FROM AN OLD GERMAN/ PORTUGUESE FAMILY, FLED TO THE AZORES AFTER THE 25TH OF APRIL WHEN MUCH OF HIS VALUABLE COLLECTION WAS CONFISCATED BY THE

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GONCALVISTA REGIME.) REFERRING TO THE FLA, DAEHNHARDT SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BAILEY TO INFORM AMCONSUL THAT "WE HAVE SUPPORT INSIDE AND OUTSIDE NATO. MUCH OF OUR SUPPORT IS CONCENTRATED AT BRUNSUM, HOLLAND" WHICH DAEHNHARDT DESCRIBED AS THE "SECRET MILITARY HEADQUARTERS OF NATO". BAILEY SAID THAT DAEHNHARDT DID NOT ELABORATE FURTHER.

4. BAILEY SAID THAT DURING RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH SEVERAL TOP FLA LEADERS HE GLEANED THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. STARTING IN LATER 1977, THE FLA BEGAN RECEIVING ARMS WHICH HAD BEEN PURCHASED ABROAD AND SMUGGLED INTO THE AZORES. THE SHIPMENTS WERE NOT LIMITED TO PISTOLS AND RIFLES BUT INCLUDED LARGER GRADE WEAPONS AS WELL. SEVERAL AZOREAN-BORN FORMER PORTUGUESE ARMY OFFICERS WITH COMMANDO EXPERIENCE IN AFRICA WERE TRAINING FLA SUPPORTERS IN THE USE OF COMBAT ARMS. INSTRUCTION HAD ALSO BEEN GIVEN BY TWO PORTUGUESE SPEAKING EXPLOSIVES EXPERTS, ONE ENGLISH AND THE OTHER OF EASTERN EUROPEAN ORIGIN (BUT NOT COMMUNIST).

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5. BAILEY SAID THAT IN CONTACTS WITH FLA LEADERS HE HAD
LEARNED THAT THE FLA PLANS TO ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE CONSISTED
ESSENTIALLY OF EXECUTING A QUICK, ARMED SEIZURE OF KEY POINTS
ON SAO MIGUEL AND THE OTHER MAIN ISLANDS, SUCH AS AIRPORTS,
PORTS, AND TV AND RADIO STATIONS, FOLLOWED BY A DECLARATION
OF INDEPENDENCE. FLA LEADERS TOLD HIM THAT THE LARGELY
AZOREAN-MANNED ARMY AND POLICE UNITS IN THE ARCHIPELAGO
WERE HEAVILY INFILTRATED WITH FLA SUPPORTERS AND, THEREFORE,
COULD BE EASILY NEUTRALIZED IN A SHOWDOWN. BAILEY SAID
THE FLA WAS BANKING THAT THE GOP WOULD NOT RESIST A UNILATERAL
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IF FACED WITH A RAPID ARMED FAIT
ACCOMPLI.

6. COMMENT: AMCONSUL STILL HAS ABSOLUTELY NO EVIDENCE TO
SUBSTANTIATE BAILEY'S SUSPICION THAT THE FLA GOLPE IS
IMMINENT. IT DOES APPEAR THAT THE FLA, HAVING BEEN CUT OFF
FROM DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE AMCONSUL, IS SEEKING TO
UTILIZE DR. BAILEY AS AN ALTERNATE CONDUIT. MACK.
END QUOTE.

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2. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE, LIKE AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA, HAVE
NO EVIDENCE THAT AN FLA-BACKED RUN AT POWER IS IMMINENT.
BUT PRESSURES ARE NO DOUBT BUILDING WITHIN THE SEPARATIST

MOVEMENT TO TAKE SOME ACTION TO RECAPTURE THE INITIATIVE IN
THE FACE OF A STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
CENTRAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS. WHILE THERE IS ALWAYS
THE POSSIBILITY THAT FRUSTRATED FLA ACTIVISTS MIGHT DO
SOMETHING FOOLISH, WE BELIEVE THAT THE AZOREAN POLITICAL
LEADERSHIP IS SUFFICIENTLY ENCOURAGED BY PROGRESS TOWARD
AUTONOMY THAT IT WOULD DISCOURAGE ANY INTEMPERATE ACTION BY
THE SEPARATISTS.
BLOOMFIELD

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